

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-20 (canceled)

21. (New) A method for manufacturing a finished product having antibacterial activity comprising treating at least one face of a substrate comprising at least 50% by weight of cellulosic fibers with a composition containing as sole antimicrobial agent, a metal gluconate chosen in the group consisting of zinc gluconate, silver gluconate, copper gluconate or mixtures thereof.

22. (New) The method of claim 21 wherein the concentration of antimicrobial agent in the finished product is of from about 0.01%-10%.

23. (New) The method of claim 21 wherein the concentration of antimicrobial agent in the finished product is of from about 0.05-1% by weight.

24. (New) The method of claim 21 wherein the finished product is a hand wipe, toilet paper, a handkerchief, an impregnated diaper, an absorbent pad for feminine hygiene, or a nonwoven or absorbent paper for meat trays.

25. (New) The method of claim 24 wherein the impregnated diaper is for a baby.

26. (New) The method of claim 21 wherein the substrate is a nonwoven based on paper fibers, obtained by the dry method.

27. (New) The method of claim 21 wherein the antimicrobial agent is zinc gluconate.

28. (New) The method of claim 22 wherein the antimicrobial agent is zinc gluconate.

29. (New) The method of claim 23 wherein the antimicrobial agent is zinc gluconate.

30. (New) The method of claim 24 wherein the antimicrobial agent is zinc gluconate.

31. (New) The method of claim 25 wherein the antimicrobial agent is zinc gluconate.